

D-Day: June 6th 1944



In November, 1943, Joseph Stalin, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt met together in Teheran, Iran, to discuss military strategy and post-war Europe. Ever since the Soviet Union had entered the war, Stalin had been demanding that the Allies open-up a second front in Europe. Churchill and Roosevelt argued that any attempt to land troops in Western Europe would result in heavy casualties. Until the Soviet's victory at Stalingrad in January, 1943, Stalin had feared that without a second front, Germany would defeat them.

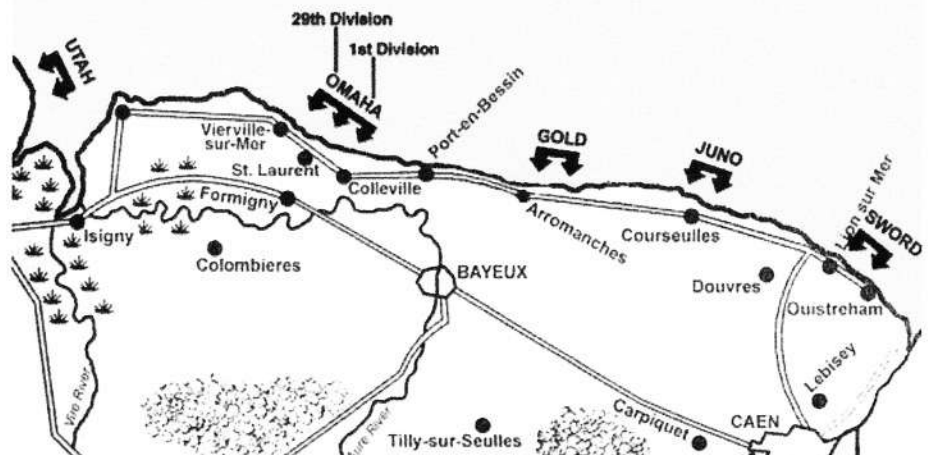
Stalin, who always favored in offensive strategy, believed that there were political, as well as military reasons for the Allies' failure to open up a second front in Europe. Stalin was still highly suspicious of Winston Churchill and FDR and was worried about them signing a peace agreement with Adolf Hitler. The foreign policies of the capitalist countries since the October Revolution had convinced Stalin that their main objective was the destruction of the communist system in the Soviet Union. Stalin was fully aware that if Britain and the USA withdrew from the war, the Red Army would have great difficulty in dealing with Germany on its own.

At Teheran, Stalin reminded Churchill and Roosevelt of a previous promise of landing troops in Western Europe in 1942. Later they postponed it to the spring of 1943. Stalin complained that it was now November and there was still no sign of an allied invasion of France. After lengthy discussions it was agreed that the Allies would mount a major offensive in the spring of 1944.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower was put in charge of what became known as Operation Overlord. Eisenhower had the task of organizing around a million combat troops and two million men involved in providing support services for the invasion of France.

The plan, drawn up by George Marshall, Eisenhower, Bernard Montgomery, and others, involved assaults on five beaches west of the Orne River near Caen (codenamed Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha and Utah) by the British 2nd Army and the American 1st Army. Follow-up forces included the Canadian 1st Army and the American 3rd Army under Lt. General George Patton.

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Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____ A#: _____

Juno was assigned to the Canadian Army. Canada contributed 110 ships to the invading force, 14,000 troops, including paratroopers, and 15 RCAF squadrons of fighters and fighter-bombers. It is estimated that Canada contributed about 10 percent of the D-Day invading force.

The invasion was preceded by a massive aerial bombardment of German communications. This resulted in the destruction of virtually every bridge over the Seine.

On 6th June, 1944, 2,727 ships sailed to the Normandy coast and on the first day landed 156,000 men on a front of thirty miles. It was the largest and most powerful armada ever.

The Allied invasion of Normandy was faced by 50 divisions of the German Army under General Erwin Rommel, who was known as "The Dessert Fox".



The Allies also sent in three airborne divisions, two American and one British, to prepare for the main assault by taking certain strategic points and by disrupting German communications. Of the 23,000 airborne troops, 15,500 were Americans and of these, 6,000 were killed or seriously wounded.

Over the next couple of days 156,215 troops were landed from sea and air in Normandy, at a cost of some 10,300 casualties.

Questions to Consider:

1) Where did the "Big Three" meet in November of 1943? What did Stalin demand at the meeting?

2) What was the code name of the invasion of France? Who was in charge of the invasion?

3) What was the code names of all five of the beaches? Which two did the United States fight on?

4) Who was the German commander at Normandy?

5) How many men died over the course of taking the beach?

★ **Enrichment Activity 26-3****Unbreakable Code**

Sending coded messages that cannot be easily decoded is vital to the secrecy of military operations. During World War II, the United States Marine Corps enlisted more than 400 Navajo volunteers to be "code talkers." The "code talkers" sent military messages in their own language that was never broken, or decoded, by the Japanese. For military terms that had no Navajo equivalents, the "code talkers" invented names using words they knew.

DIRECTIONS: Understanding Imagery Read the military terms and Navajo words below. The meanings of the Navajo words are in the word bank. Try to match the Navajo words with the translated meaning that suggests the military term. Make your best guess. Write the matching meaning on the line. Then verify your answers with your teacher.

Word Bank

bird carrier	short big gun	light streak	iron fish	
potatoes	owl	whale	hummingbird	eggs

Military term	Navajo word	Meaning
1. fighter plane	<i>da-he-tih-hi</i>	_____
2. submarine	<i>besb-lo</i>	_____
3. flare	<i>wo-chi</i>	_____
4. battleship	<i>lo-tso</i>	_____
5. observation plane	<i>ne-as-jah</i>	_____
6. bombs	<i>a-ye-shi</i>	_____
7. howitzer	<i>be-el-ton-tso-quodi</i>	_____
8. aircraft carrier	<i>tsidi-ney-ye-hi</i>	_____
9. grenades	<i>ni-ma-si</i>	_____

Activity

DIRECTIONS: Creating a Code With a partner, develop your own code. Create a codebook of code words and their meanings. Then write several messages using the code and challenge classmates to break the code.

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 – 1945)



Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a Democrat, was America's 32nd President. He held office from 1933 – 1945. He was born on January 30, 1882 in Hyde Park, New York. He married his sixth cousin Anna Eleanor Roosevelt on March 17, 1905. They had six children, Anna Eleanor, James, Franklin Delano Jr. (who died at eight months old), Elliot, a second Franklin Delano Jr., and John.

The son of wealthy parents James and Sara Delano Roosevelt, Franklin enjoyed the privilege of a private education by tutors until he attended the Groton School in 1896. He was taught at an early age that children of the upper classes had a duty to society. He attended Harvard University from 1900 to 1904. He attended Columbia Law School, but did not graduate. After passing the New York Bar Exam, he joined a New York law firm. Unhappy practicing law, Roosevelt ran for the New York State Senate in 1910. He served there until he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy in 1913, a position he held until 1920.

Roosevelt became ill with polio in August 1921 and spent time at Warm Springs, Georgia. He hoped the warm waters there would help him walk again. He formed the Warm Springs Foundation for other polio victims and spent time there each year.

In 1929, Roosevelt became the Governor of New York and served two terms in that position, until he ran for and was elected president in 1932. America was in a depression when he was first elected. People did not have jobs. He formed the New Deal Program to help America get back on its feet. The program combined efforts of relief for the unemployed, recovery through the creation of new jobs, and economic reform. He was re-elected three times and served longer than any other president.

Franklin Roosevelt served as President during some of America's hardest times. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The following day, Roosevelt delivered a powerful speech to Congress, successfully urging them to declare war. Roosevelt did not live to see the end of World War II. He died in Warm Springs, Georgia on April 12, 1945. He was buried at his Hyde Park, New York home in the rose garden on April 15, 1945.

NAME _____ DATE _____

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Which of the following would be a good title for this text?
 - a. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Polio Victim
 - b. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Overcoming Difficulties
 - c. Franklin D. Roosevelt, New Deal
 - d. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Died in Office
2. Which of the following is true?
 - a. Roosevelt studied at Harvard University.
 - b. Roosevelt was born to poor parents.
 - c. Roosevelt died after the end of World War II.
 - d. None of the above
3. What position did Roosevelt hold from 1913-1920?
 - a. President of the United States
 - b. Assistant Secretary of the Navy
 - c. Governor of New York
 - d. Senator
4. According to this writing, what disability did Roosevelt have as a result of polio?
 - a. He could not use his arms.
 - b. He could not speak.
 - c. He was unable to walk.
 - d. He had a rare blood disease.
5. Roosevelt served two terms as Governor of which state?
 - a. Georgia
 - b. California
 - c. Iowa
 - d. New York
6. During Roosevelt's presidency, America was involved in what difficult event?
 - a. war
 - b. depression
 - c. wealth
 - d. both a and b
7. What program did Roosevelt form to help America during the Depression?
 - a. The Old Deal
 - b. The Peace Corp
 - c. The Library Fund
 - d. The New Deal

NAME _____ DATE _____

Answer these questions in complete sentences.

1. As the son of wealthy parents, what was Roosevelt taught at an early age?

2. What career change did Roosevelt make when he was unhappy practicing law?

3. What did Roosevelt do for other polio victims?

4. How did Roosevelt help America during the depression?

5. What was Roosevelt's response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?

★ **Enrichment Activity 26-2****The Four Freedoms Speech**

In 1941 President Franklin D. Roosevelt made this speech:

In the future days which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want—which translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear, which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough manner that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of . . . aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.

SECTION 26-2

1. What phrase did Roosevelt repeat after he identified each freedom?

2. Why do you think Roosevelt repeated that phrase? _____

3. How many of Roosevelt's freedoms do you think have been accomplished? Explain.

Activity

DIRECTIONS: Writing an Essay Think about what freedom meant to Americans at the time of the Revolutionary War and what freedom means today. How do the ideas Roosevelt expressed compare to earlier and later ideas of freedom? Are his four freedoms the most important ones? On a separate sheet of paper, write an essay to answer these questions. In your essay be sure to tell what freedom means to you.